

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11

FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

OMB-01 PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 /166 R

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P R 252359Z FEB 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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S E C R E T STATE 037780

TOSEC 36, ZFF LONDON ONLY

E.O.11652;GDS

TAGS: ENRG

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SUBJECT: ENERGY: EC/ARAB COOPERATION INITIATIVES

REF: THE HAGUE 864, LUXEMBOURG 116

POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN SEVERAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS DURING WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, SECRETARY STRESSED THAT INDEPENDENT EC NINE POLITICAL INITIATIVES WITH ARABS WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL AT THIS TIME. OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH DUTCH, BRITISH AND OTHERS HERE IN WASHINGTON. OUR POSITION IS IN GENERAL AS FOLLOWS:

-- ANY EC POLITICAL APPROACH TO ARAB COUNTRIES IN ABSENCE MID-EAST SETTLEMENT COULD PROVE VERY HARMFUL TO OUR OWN EFFORTS TO FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION UNLESS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED IN ADVANCE WITH US. EVEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROPOSALS WOULD MOST LIKELY INCLUDE THE SUPPLYING OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND OTHER MATTERS WITH STRONG POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

-- WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CONSUMER COUNTRIES SHOULD PROPOSE BROAD NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO ARABS OR OTHER PRODUCERS UNTIL AFTER MAJOR CONSUMING COUNTRIES HAVE FULLY DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON HOW BEST TO PURSUE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, RULE OUT SOME FORM OF DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN OF AN EXPLORATORY NATURE.

-- WE WOULD IN PARTICULAR HOPE THE EC NINE COUNTRIES WILL TAKE NO BINDING DECISIONS AT THIS TIME CONCERNING POSSIBLE EC/ARAB COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS. UNLESS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND COORDINATED, EC/ARAB CONFERENCE WOULD RESULT ONLY IN PUTTING BOTH ARAB MODERATES AND RADICALS IN ONE ROOM WITH FURTHER PRICE INCREASES A LIKELY OUTCOME. ARAB STATES MIGHT USE SUCH A MEETING TO RAISE OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES AS WELL.

-- IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL BECOME FULLY INVOLVED IN THE MID-EAST
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AND BELIEVE THAT THE EC NINE CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE STABILITY OF THE REGION. CASEY

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